Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Life expectancy in the United States and South Dakota has increased from 47 years in 1901 to 77 years in 2001, but the gains have not been equal for all citizens; and,

Whereas, Public health efforts resulting in the reduction of infectious diseases and decreases in infant mortality are credited for this expanded life expectancy; and,

Whereas, The public health community in South Dakota is involved in a wide range of efforts to improve the health and well-being of the state's citizens; and,

Whereas, Public health succeeds by identifying and addressing patterns of disease, illness, and injury in populations; and,

Whereas, Healthcare disparities exist in our state with regards to minority groups, women, children, elderly, low-income groups, and individuals with special health care needs, including those with disabilities and those who need chronic care or end-of-life care; and,

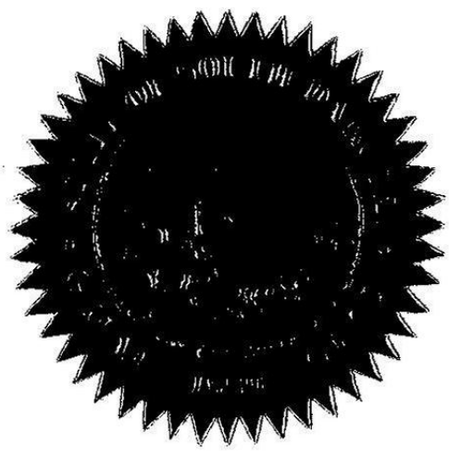
Whereas, National Public Health Week provides a focused opportunity for the public and public health professionals to learn about public health measures that are vital to healthy communities, such as immunizing against infectious disease, maintaining good nutritional standards and physical activity levels, and providing good prenatal care; and,

Whereas, South Dakota will join the nation in celebrating "Eliminating Health Disparities: Communities Moving from Statistics to Solutions" for National Public Health Week:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 5-11, 2004, as

PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

in South Dakota, and I call upon all citizens to recognize public health's many contributions to healthier lives for all residents of the state.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Tenth Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State